

1 **CLAIMS:**

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3 We claim:

4 1. A system for synchronizing a multiplicity of devices in a multimedia environment,

5 comprising:

6 at least one central storage and interface device, wherein audio, video, and

7 photographic information including content information and content management

8 information, relating to at least one user, are stored in digital form; and

9 a plurality of zones each having a zone specific storage and interface device being

10 capable of storing or interfacing with information stored in the central storage and interface

11 device, wherein audio, video, or photographic information, relating to at least one user,

12 contained within each one of the plurality of zone specific storage and interface devices and

13 the central storage and interface device, are updated in relation with other zone specific

14 storage and interface devices and the central storage and interface device, whereby the at least

15 one user can be situated at anyone of the zones and access substantially identical audio,

16 video, and photographic information related to the at least one user.

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18 2. The system of claim 1, further comprising a local area network (LAN) coupled to at least

19 one zone specific storage and interface device with the central storage and interface device,

20 wherein the interconnections within the LAN is hardwired or wireless.

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22 3. The system of claim 1, further comprising a wide area network (WAN) coupling at least

23 one zone specific storage and interface device with the central storage and interface device.

1 4. The system of claim 1, further comprising a set of zone specific output devices coupled to
2 each of the zone specific storage and interface device, wherein audio, video, and
3 photographic information is outputted, thereby the at least one user is disposed to have
4 substantially identical content information and content management information displayed
5 and manipulated in anyone of the zones.

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7 5. The system of claim 1, further comprising an output device coupled to the at least one
8 central storage and interface device, wherein audio, video, and photographic information is
9 outputted.

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11 6. The system of claim 1, further comprising a server, wherein audio, video, and
12 photographic information contained within each one of the plurality of zone specific storage
13 and interface devices and the central storage and interface device are stored therein and
14 updated at a predetermined time in relation with other zone specific storage and interface
15 devices as well as the central storage and interface device, coupled to the WAN.

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17 7. The system of claim 1, further comprising an other device coupled to the central storage
18 and interface device via a network connection other than the LAN or WAN.

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20 8. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one user pre-stores the audio, video, and
21 photographic information by way of using a device comprising the central storage and
22 interface device, and the zone specific storage and interface device.

1 9. The system of claim 1, wherein the central storage and interface device comprises means
2 for transmitting or receiving information to or from the zone specific storage and interface
3 device.

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5 10. The system of claim 1, wherein the zone specific storage and interface device comprises
6 means for transmitting or receiving information to or from the central storage and interface
7 device.

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9 11. The system of claim 1, wherein the central storage and interface device is capable of
10 converting analog information into digital form.

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12 12. The system of claim 1, wherein the zone specific storage and interface device is disposed
13 to be coupled to a personal computer (PC).

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15 13. The system of claim 1, wherein the zone specific storage and interface device is disposed
16 to be coupled to a wireless mobile device.

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18 14. The system of claim 1, wherein the central storage and interface device is disposed to be
19 coupled to a wireless mobile device via LAN.

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21 15. The system of claim 1, wherein the central storage and interface device is disposed to be
22 coupled to a wireless mobile device via WAN.

1 16. A method for synchronizing a plurality of devices some of which resides in a plurality of
2 zones, comprising the steps of:

3 providing the plurality of devices, wherein the devices comprise a plurality of zone
4 specific storage and interface devices, at least one central storage and interface device, and
5 other device;

6 providing the plurality of zones, wherein at least one zone specific storage and
7 interface device resides therein, and information content specific to a user is maintained at a
8 substantially identical level among the plurality of devices;

9 determining whether a current synchronization point exists;
10 if a previous synchronization point exists, receiving information from a server;

11 if a previous synchronization point does not exist, sending information to a at least
12 one client by a host, wherein the at least one user is disposed to have control;

13 determining what information is needed by the at least one client; and
14 establishing the resultant state as a synchronization point.

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16 17. The method of claim 16, further comprising a step of determining when to initiate
17 synchronization.

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19 18. The method of claim 17, further comprising a step of:
20 requesting synchronization;
21 accepting synchronization; and
22 if synchronization is declined, reverting back to the step of determining when to
23 initiate synchronization.

1 19. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of determining whether a previous
2 synchronization point exists involves determining what occurred in time between the last and
3 the current synchronization point.

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5 20. The method of claim 16, wherein the information comprises data, content, and content
6 management information.

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8 21. The method of claim 16, wherein the information comprises data structures in audio,
9 video, or picture format.

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11 22. The method of claim 16, wherein the server comprises the at least one central storage
12 and interface device.

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14 23. The method of claim 16, wherein the server comprises an on-line server having a
15 database.